

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 03345 051519Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3467
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS BRUSSELS 03345

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS:EEC,EAID-EAGR-PK
SUBJECT: EC FOOD AID PAKISTAN

REF:
A) 76 EC BRUSSELS 5589 B) 76 STATE 295380 C) 76 EC BRUSSELS
11713 D) 76 STATE 295381

THE EC COMMISSION HAS SENT US A LETTER REGARDING THE WHEAT UMR FOR
PAKISTAN,(REFTEL).IS THE LETTER THE COMMISSION INFORMS US THAT ON
MARCH 11 PAKISTAN REQUESTED THAT THE COMMUNITY AGREE TO A NIL UMR
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1 1976 TO JUNE 30, 1977. THE RELEVANT PORTIONS
OF THE NOTE FROM THE PAKISTAN MISSION TO THE EC READ AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE" PAKISTAN MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES PRESENTS ITS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE COMMISSIO OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND WITH
REGARD TO EEC'S 35,000 TONS OF WHEAT AS AID TO PAKISTAN FOR THE YEAR
1975-76 HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM THE COMMISSION THAT IN VIEW OF
THE SUFFICIENT WHEAT STOCKS AND GOOD CROP FORECAST IN THE CURRENT
YEAR AND ALSO DUE TO SOME STORAGE PROBLMES WHICH ARE ANTICIPATED
AS A RESULT HEREOF,
THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MEET THE U..R.OF
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279,500 TONS OF WHEAT STIPULATED AGAINST THE SAID AID. MOREOVER,
THE PROCUREMENT OF 279,500 TONS OF WHEAT AS U.M.RON ACCONT OF
THE SAID CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD STRAIN THE ALREADY DIFFICULT FOREIGN
EXCHANGE POSITION OF PAKISTAN.
IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES,THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN IS
NOW NOT IN A POSITION TO ACCEPT THE CONDITION OF U.M.R.FOR E.E.C.
AID OF 35,000 TONS.THE COMMISSION IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO

RECONSIDER THE MATTER AND COMPLETELY WAIVE THE UMR..".UNQUOTE

2.IN ADDITION THE COMMISSION LETTER CITES THAT,DURING THE COURSE OF A PERSONAL VISIT TO THE COMMISSION,THE PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT THE REQUEST FOR A NIL U.M.R.WAS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

QUOTE(I)PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES ARE ALMOST EXHAUSTED, AND IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO FIND THE DOLLARS 40 MILLION ESTIMATED AS NECESSARY TO PROCURE AND SHIP 279,500 TONS OF WHEAT.

(II) THE OUTLOOK FOR THE FORTHCOMING SPRING WHEAT CROP IS EXTREMELY GOOD,AND THERE IS NO REAL NEED FOR COMMERCIAL IMPORTS AT THIS STATE. PAKISTAN WILL BEALMOST SELF-SUFFICIENT FOR 1977.

(III) THERE WOULD BE PROBLEMS REGARDING STORAGE OF 279,500 T.

UNQUOTE

3.THE COMMISSIN ASKS US TO LET THEM KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHET HER THE USG WOULD SUPPORT A REDUCTION IN THE CURRENT UMR FROM 27, 9500 METRIC TONS TO NIL.

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